

Sample Slab Update #10 – May 2016

The newsletter for sample slab collectors

Some newsletters don't survive past the first issue, but Sample Slab Update made it into double digits. Thank you for continuing to read.

Book News – Second Edition Launch Date Set for August ANA

Sample Slabs, second edition, launches August 9, 2016 at the ANA World's Fair of Money in Anaheim, California. The book is ahead of schedule, with the first draft complete, allowing a release earlier than the tentative date of September announced in the last newsletter. Growing from 445 pages to more than 600 and from 580 types to over 750, the second edition is a significant expansion. Expect to see a free sample chapter in your email soon.

Market Notes

Several of the PCGS YN Treasure Hunt registry slabs came up for sale after the February Long Beach Expo. Look for detailed research on these in the catalog. To learn details on what was issued and exact mintages, see the PCGS registry set information at <http://www.pcgs.com/setregistry/composite.aspx?c=6116>. The half dollars are rare, so if you know a child who has one, be sure they know they have something of value. I should have taken my 11-year-old daughter go to the show with me on Saturday and had her pick up a \$50 - \$150 slab.



A noteworthy unlisted type appeared February 28 when a 1964 proof quarter in a PCGS green label holder earned \$325. Based on the slightly more modern lettering, this appears to be a few years newer than the also scarce PCGS green label mint state quarter, PCGS-025-3-1.

Compiling the 50 highest eBay sales for an appendix to Sample Slabs showed that six of the 50 were PCGS solid-zero or doily dimes with 1950s dates. Date and mintmark sets of U.S. coins have been the most popular form of coin collecting since the 1930s, with collectors focusing on better dates. Samples also have their scarce dates. PCGS dime samples, with their variety of years and mintmarks, lend themselves to this type of collecting. Years from now, a sample catalog may list and price PCGS rattlers and green label dimes by date and mintmark instead of by type.

I was happy to acquire a common date in a rare slab, the PCGS hand-cut doily (PCGS-010-2-2). Selling this time for \$609, the hand-cut doily is the 1804 dollar of samples and one of the most famous holders in our hobby.

Conder101's Slab Book Sells for Strong Price

Third Party Grading / Certification Services & Slab / Certificate Varieties, known as The Slab Book, by Conder101 sold for \$126.50 with buyer's premium at Lake Books' 124th mail bid sale on March 15. Showing that grading service enthusiasts are hungry for information and willing to pay for it, the 2003 book far

exceeded its \$15 estimate and was the most valuable book in this sale of 496 lots. Long out of print, *The Slab Book* remains the most comprehensive source on the history of grading services and the details of their products. Although it focuses on production holders, the book includes listings of 86 sample and related slabs.

Heritage Auctions Mentions the Sample Slabs Book

Auctioneers such as Heritage and Great Collections occasionally include sample slabs in their sales. In one of their weekly U.S. coin auctions, Heritage described this NGC Peace dollar as, “Ex: NGC Sample. Type NGC-100-3-3, according to the Schwager reference on sample slabs.” The holder garnered eight bids and sold for \$141, including buyer’s premium.

This common but impressive slab has sold at increasing prices in the last year, and the first edition value of \$70 was revised upward to \$110, based on sales like this one.

I wonder if Heritage would accept a consignment of high-end sample slabs.

**Heritage lot 27359
1/24/16**



COINage Magazine Runs Sample Slab Column

The Modern World column in the April 2016 COINage covered sample slabs in a piece titled, “Buy the Slab, Not the Coin.” I write this column on U.S. modern coins, which appears in COINage in even numbered months, and the publishers were kind enough to indulge me on my favorite subject. The April column is an introduction to sample collecting, and is based on the preface of the [Sample Slabs](#) book. Samples increasingly appear in coin publications and awareness continues to grow.

Ad Space Available in [Sample Slabs](#) Second Edition

Advertising space is available at the end of the new edition of [Sample Slabs](#). If you routinely buy or sell samples, this is a highly targeted way to reach your market. Advanced collectors might find it worthwhile to place buy ads or even to post specific want lists. Advertisements will appear in color in the PDF download and in black and white in the printed softcover.

Please email your ad, preferably in Word, to me at davidschwager@hotmail.com. PayPal payments can go to the same address, or email me to make other arrangements. Closing date is June 30.

Full page (\$70) should fit in a box 3.5 inches wide by 6.5 inches tall.

Half page (\$40) should fit in a box 3.5 inches wide by 3.2 inches tall.

Buying and Selling

I am always interested in samples from obscure graders that help my goal of owning one sample from each service. Feel free to offer me anything else, as well.



This time, we have a guest seller, Jeff Shevlin, the so-called dollar authority. His FUN samples are sold out, but some of the 2015 World's Fair of Money slabs are available. To buy, email him directly at SoCalledGuy@hotmail.com.

2 left - HK 508 1950 Washington DC Sesquicentennial \$65
2 left - HK 542 1959 Colorado Rush to the Rockies Centennial \$75
2 left - HK 562 1959 Oregon Statehood Centennial – State Capitol \$65
1 left - HK 573 1959 Oregon Beaver Dollar \$40
2 left - HK 856A 1961 Centennial Dollar Restrike in Goldline by Bashlow \$70

If you would like to place a brief buy or sell ad in the next Sample Slab Update at no charge, please email me.

Sample Slab Update #10 – May 2016 (sent 5/1/16). By David Schwager, Fountain Valley, California. davidschwager@hotmail.com. Please email me to be added to or removed from the mailing list. Comments and submissions are welcome. See SampleSlabBook.com for past issues.